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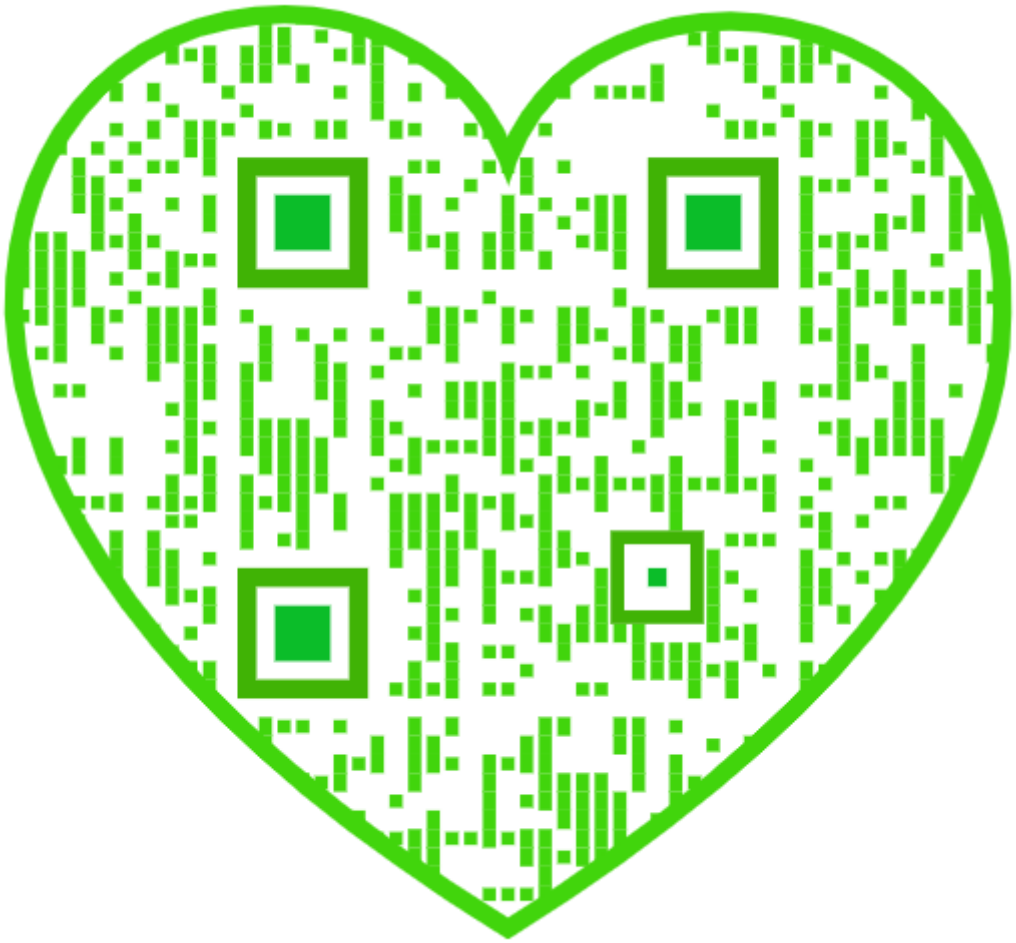

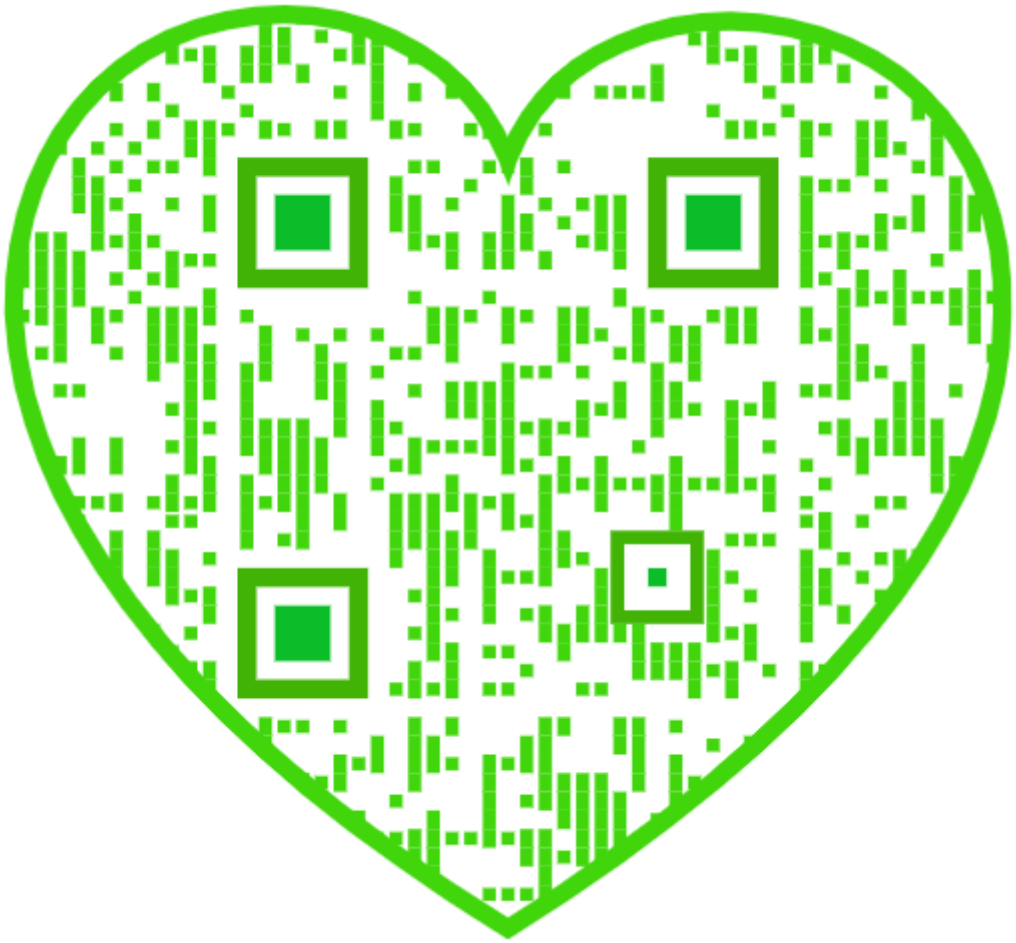

SCIENCE

OF

HORSE TRAINING,

CONTAINING

THE HISTORY OF TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN TRAINING HORSES AND BREAKING COLTS; ALSO HINTS ON BREAKING STEERS, MANY VALUABLE RECIPES, &c., &c., &c., &c.

By FRANK DONALD.

BERLIN, WIS.:
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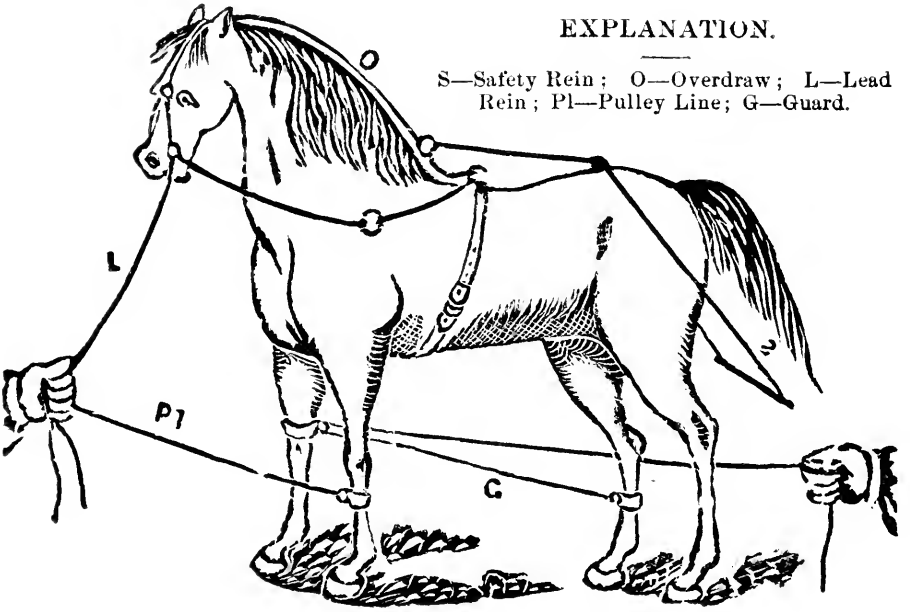

EXPLANATION.

S—Safety Rein; O—Overdraw; L—Lead Rein; Pl—Pulley Line; G—Guard.

INTRODUCTION.

MANY learned and elaborate works have been written upon horses, their breaking, driving and general management; and also on their diseases and cures. Some parts of these many works are very good, while others are of no benefit whatever to the practitioner, or to those who do not make it a business to break horses, but yet break their own. On account of the great supply of horse-doctoring books before the public, I have made it no point to write anything on the diseases and cures of horses, although I have inserted a few recipes such as I can recommend, and know to be good, by daily use of them. But I wish to introduce to the people, and especially the farmers, a work descriptive of a new system of colt breaking and horse taming; a work which will be a benefit alike to the learned and unlearned, and one which has cost me much time and labor for the last twenty years; and I trust I have brought to light a system as near perfect, in a practical point of view, for handling colts and horses with ease and safety, as any yet offered to horse owners. I have castrated and broke horses and colts in almost every county in this State, and if my employers, and friends tell me the truth, I have always given entire satisfaction, and they acknowledge that my system

is *the* system by which to break and train colts. My castrating like my training, always speaks for itself. In a place where I can get one job I can always get more another season.

Hoping my new system will meet the approbation of farmers and horse raisers, to such I cheerfully dedicate and freely recommend my little book; and hoping every peruser of it who has never given me the benefit of a trial, will do so at their earliest convenience and prove for themselves that I am no humbug.

FRANK DONALD.

BERLIN, WIS.

SCIENCE OF HORSE TRAINING.

In this age of progression and improvement, why do men and boys persist in following that common and harsh method of handling colts? It is because they do not know nor seem to care to learn a better one. There are a great variety of methods practiced by different men, and professed followers of Rarey, yet few, if any, are ever successful in anything except teaching others what they themselves can not do. I claim to have found the true secret of horse training. After twenty years of practical experience, having handled nearly three thousand horses, I have learned that all the systems which have been taught by traveling trainers who have infested the country for the past few years, have been failures so far as they have pretended to learn all persons to be horse tamers, and that they themselves have failed in bringing a really unmanagable horse or colt to a perfect state of subjection or usefulness. There are but few persons who have the nerve to go into a small enclosure with a wild or vicious colt. It is much easier to have the animal brought to them to a tent or barn than to catch it and lead it there, which but few of our professional horse tamers ever attempt to do. J. S. Rarey has given the easiest method of getting a colt into an enclosure, in his book-pamphlet on "Horse Taming," pages 7–8; few, however, have the patience to

catch and halter it when there. In going near an untamed colt to halter it, you are in danger of being injured in various ways. In the first place, your colt has never been conquered and will make every endeavor to get away, or in its fright show fight, and drive you from the yard or barn as the case may be. If you are fortunate enough to get a halter on the beast you may not be able to hold it. If it starts from you the tendency is for it to rear and fall over backwards. If you try to pull it along, it will brace back and pull *you* along with it. If you attempt to take up its foot it will strike or kick, and you having no means of defease are in danger of being hurt. You have no way of subduing the colt without running a great risk of injury being done both to yourself and the colt. All trainers say you must *throw* the colt to subdue it and they teach various ways to do this, but do not tell how the person who has the work of catching, subduing and educating can do it without danger. No way has been taught to make the colt follow you without the use of a whip or by jerking the under jaw with a small cord—methods very harsh and cruel and which have spoiled many good horses; no way taught of compelling balky horses to go or of curing them of that most vexatious habit; no way to prevent a horse from pulling at the halter or bridle or to make it stand when left alone in the field, or to prevent it from kicking the horse he stands beside, or from carrying its head to one side when in the harness, or to stand quiet while being shod, or to keep it from kicking while at work in the harness. The method I wish to introduce to the public is new and safe. It does away with the old, brutal style of jerking the animal's mouth by a cord until the blood runs, or of throwing it down, which treatment it does not understand and can not be made to understand.

If you wanted your child to perform some service with which he was unacquainted, because he did not do it immediately at your word of command, you would

not use harsh and unseemly means to make him do it, but you would show him how or give him such instructions as would enable him to fully understand what you require. I think it no more than fair that we should give the dumb beasts an equally good chance to learn what you want them to do. When this is done we shall have fewer maimed horses, and horses with broken legs, from cruel punishment inflicted for disobedience induced by the horse not comprehending what is wanted of him. The horse is a very obedient animal if by proper treatment it is made to understand what is wanted of it. It is a good idea to make the horse understand that you mean what you say, and must be obeyed. Better to take half an hour to make your horse understand a command than to let him go without understanding it. The instinct of the horse is what reason is to man. We reason from cause and effect, and it is much the same with the horse. If we say "whoa," to the horse and have the power to make him stop and stand still, he will soon learn that "whoa," means stop, and stand still. If you hurt him in stopping it will make him out of temper and he will not obey you readily or with good grace. A horse will also soon learn when you are out of temper by the sound of your voice. How does he learn this? almost invariably in this way: You speak quicker and in a higher key at the same time hurting him either with the whip or by severely jerking the bits, and whenever he hears that peculiar tone of voice he is frightened for he thinks he will be hurt, and he is then entirely incapable of understanding what you want. At all times keep your temper, and practice patience and perseverance. My experience teaches me that no colt is properly broke unless he is thoroughly conquered and not hurt in so doing. If you hurt him in subduing, he hates you; if you caress him, when he gives up he will think you are his friend still. If you lasso a colt by the neck, which is very often done, it will be a long time before he will

have confidence in you as lassoing produces the most unpleasant feelings imaginable. If you hurt his mouth he will be afraid to have it touched, and may prove very troublesome about managing.

TO GET A COLT INTO A BARN.

There are but few colts but what can be induced to go into the barn yard, but this is scarcely the place to train a colt unless it is very small. I have always found the barn floor the most suitable and convenient place to handle a colt, but to get him into the barn is generally a task of no small magnitude, that is, without seriously alarming and worrying him. There are several means which can be successfully used, such as driving him into the barn in company with one or more old horses or gently driving him in alone by slowly working toward the barn door, letting him take his time to get familiar with everything that may appear suspicious or alarming to him. Make no movement on your part to alarm him, by throwing up the arms, running to head him off, or speaking sharply. If he should run by you once do not make matters worse by trying to stop him, but let him go, and work around him again. It is well known that the horse is naturally a timid animal, and trying to *force* him into the barn will excite his fears and make him think it necessary to escape at all hazards for the safety of his life. In one instance I had a colt which no amount of coaxing or driving could get into the barn; so I had both doors thrown wide open, and placed a man at the opposite door out of sight of the colt. The colt seeing a chance to get away from me made a dash to go through the barn, but as soon as he was inside we suddenly closed both doors and we had our colt.

FIRST PROCESS OF BREAKING COLTS.

Let the barn be clear from all obstructions. After the colt is in the barn let him alone a few moments, to allow him to examine the floor and all unfamiliar objects; then go in with a bow whip or switch and walk

around a few moments after the colt, or until he becomes quiet. Now take a half-inch rope about thirty feet long, tie a ring in the end of it for the rope to run through to form a noose. Place the noose in the corner of the barn far enough back for the colt to stand his *left fore foot* inside it. By driving him around a few times he can be made to step inside it. If possible, approach within ten or fifteen feet of the colt and jerk the rope so as to catch the loop around his leg below the knee. As he feels the rope tighten he will jump and probably rear and kick. Do not try to hold any tighter than to keep the rope from slipping until the colt finds that he can not get away from it. Keep as near behind him as possible, as he can not strain himself in the least when you are pulling from behind, or in front. You need not speak until the colt gives up, for the less noise the better. As soon, after the colt is caught, as he will stand still enough for you to move back and forth, step around behind him and draw the rope around his hind legs above the gambrels and tighten it. If he attempts to jump, speak gently to him saying, "whoa," and hold him, as you have the power to do so. Now start him forward and when he has taken a few steps say, "whoa," and pull the rope up enough so that he can not take a step. When he finds he can not go make him step one hind foot over the rope keeping it still around the hind leg on the same side as the fore leg to which the rope is attatched. Walk around toward his head very quietly and keeping the rope tight above the gambrel. Caress him gently, rub him on the fore shoulder and down the fore leg, along the side, and down the hind leg. He can not kick or strike unless he jumps. When you have him sufficiently used to your movements about him, put on the "guard." I do not think a horse is properly broke without the use of this. The guard is a strap one inch and a half in width with a ring in it, the strap being long enough to go around the horse's leg. Buckle one around the fore leg above the knee, and

one on the hind leg below the gambrel. Pass a three quarter rope or strap through the ring on the fore leg from the front side and fasten it to the strap on the hind leg. The rope should be about fourteen feet long. Turn the rope around from the under side so as to form a kink in the rope behind the ring on the fore leg and keep a firm hold on the end of the rope. Thus you have the colt completely in your power. As he can not get away you can compel him to stand as you please. He can neither go ahead, back, nor sideways. If you draw the rope tight it draws the hind foot up to the knee and learns him to stand to be shod without leaning upon the smith as some horses do. You can now take your small rope off and put the noose over the colt's neck, and put a small strap around the under jaw under the tongue and through the ring on the rope. Place the top of the rope back of the crest of the neck. You can handle his head now at will, and do it very gently. While you have this guard on you can accustom him to the sight of buffalo robes, blankets, etc., by bringing them before him, laying them on his back, and otherwise showing him they will not harm him. If you wish to break him to ride, jump upon his back, slide off on his gambrels, etc., until he submits to be handled all over and stands still. Now put the guard on the off hind leg, fasten the small rope to the nigh fore leg below the knee. One end is already on the neck and jaw, the guard still remaining on, but long enough to allow the colt to take a natural step. Pull lightly on the rope that runs to his jaw, and give a smart pull on the fore leg which will compel the colt to step ahead. You have not the power to pull the colt along by the head, but you have by the leg by pulling a little sideways. A severe pull on the head will most generally cause the colt to rear, but a light pull on the head at the time of pulling forward the foot, will establish the fact with the colt that it would be useless for him to pull on a bridle or halter. When you pull the colt toward you say,

"Come here," and he will soon learn that those words mean for him to come to you. When he comes close up, caress him, with a rub on the head, beneath the eyes, etc. If you wish your horse to follow the crack of the whip, crack a whip as you pull him toward you until he will come at that sound alone. Let the colt rest often or he will become tired and sullen.

It might be well to say here that where the colt has been used to running into the stable, sheds, or other outbuildings, drive several in at once and then separate the one you wish to catch from the others. Make him step into the noose before mentioned and hold him until the others can be driven out. If you wish to take him to a other stable or more convenient place before commencing work, put a halter on him, and lead another horse, harnessed, sideways to the door on the outside, which will prevent the colt from making his escape. Hitch the rope on the colt's leg to the hame-ring of the harness on the other horse and then work the colt along toward the horse at the door. When near enough tie the halter-stale also in the hame-ring leaving the halter a little the longest so as not to pull the colt's head first. Back up the horse and swing him around, thus pulling the colt from the stable. Keep on the opposite side of the horse from the colt so as not to frighten him and you can soon lead him to a safe place for treatment. Care must be taken in handling colts in a low stable to prevent them from injuring their heads by rearing while you are pulling on the rope.

TO LEARN THE COLT TO STAND.

Place the colt in a narrow stall, containing a strong hitching ring placed three or four feet above the floor. Put a good halter on the colt—one you can depend upon Run the halter-stale through the ring from the back side and down to a strap buckled to the nigh fore leg above the knee, leaving the stale long enough to allow the colt to stand back three feet, and the guard on the

off legs rather short, and then let him pull all he can. He can not hurt his head by pulling as the act lifts one of his main braces from the floor. The guard prevents him from pawing or rearing. Some colts will paw or rear when left alone, or will kick the stall, which will be prevented by putting the guard on both sides alike. If necessity compels you to stand horses together that are sharply shod, put a guard on each horse on the inside and it will save you a maimed horse. If you wish to leave your horses in the field, or wish to have them stand without being hitched, put the guard on the outside legs very short and they can not run. Of course they will require some watching at first.

TO LEARN A COLT TO REIN.

This is the most important part of a colt's education. No colt is pleasant to ride or drive unless he follows the rein perfectly. There are but few persons who have not some little experience in driving horses, and they know how their tempers have been tried when trying to shun obstructions. They rein one side and the horse's head comes around, while the position of the body is unchanged. Prompt obedience to the rein should be taught the colt from the beginning. I think I can safely say that there is not one man in a thousand who understands how to learn a colt to rein properly. The method commonly practiced is to pass the rein through the turrets on the back-pad and to the bit, and then try to turn the colt by pulling one rein or the other, which generally gives the impression that you want him to back, as it pulls the bit into his mouth. It also frets the horse and makes his mouth sore. My method of teaching a colt to rein is to first show him how. Use a good leather bit with large cheek pieces which will not draw through the mouth. Fasten the rein into the ring of the bit, and around the fore leg below the knee on the same side. Take the line running to the bit with one hand, and the one running to the leg with the oth

er. Stand in front and to one side, say to him, "Come around," and pull on each strap; lift the leg up and pull it sideways, pulling lightly on the rein so he will not turn his head sideways as you make him come around. As you turn him keep stepping further back and if you can't turn him by pulling the rein against his flank. The pull on the bit should amount to a very light jerk. After the colt will turn one way by merely pulling with your thumb and finger, place the rein on the other leg and learn him to turn the other way also. Pulling the colt sideways by the leg shows him how to lift up his feet to step around, which can not be done in any other way. When your colt turns readily, take the rein from the leg and fasten it to the other side of the bit. Now stand on the near side at the shoulder; throw the off rein over the hips and above the gambrels with the right hand, keeping a firm hold on the bit with the left hand, to keep him from jumping ahead when you pull on the off rein, as it draws around the flank. You should now turn the head from you by pulling with a firm hand on the off rein. Keep turning him around until he steps off squarely from you. Now change sides and proceed as before. When the colt learns to step sideways without turning his head, step away from him and tell him to go. If he does not move pull him short to one side as he steps, giving him the rein loose. If he tries to get away turn his head toward you, and as he gets part way round you can stop him short by pulling the rein furtherest from you around his gambrels, holding the other rein tight. By keeping the reins below the hips when driving him around you can prevent him from turning his head around toward you, as he will when the reins run through the turrets. If you wish to turn him to the left, step to the right side and pull quickly with the left rein it being down as low as the flank. By following these directions you can learn a colt to step squarely and promptly to one side. When you pull on the rein, as it learns him to step his fore

feet to one side, and his hind feet to the other, you can easily turn your horse around on a space four feet square.

TO HITCH UP A COLT.

Here is the secret of having a quiet and trusty horse. Very often we hear men say, "My colt needs no breaking. The boys can easily hitch him up." It is very much like placing a person upon a locomotive who is totally unacquainted with it, or never saw one. He may set it in motion but that is as far as his ability extends; he is incapable and powerless to run it. A horse is never thoroughly broke or entirely safe until he is conquered and learned what you want of him. The first impression a colt gets lasts the longest. He should never be hitched up with another horse until he has been driven alone with the reins, and then placed in a heavy pair of shafts with one end to drag upon the ground, which will prevent him from backing and learn him the use of the thills at the same time. The guard should be put on when the colt is first placed in the shafts, as it will prevent him from running away or kicking, until he gets accustomed to the harness, shafts and other things about him; also, when hitched to any thing which frightens him, it prevents his rearing or kicking. A horse kicks, rears and frets more from fear in the first place, and thenceforth from habit. A horse will soon learn to go quiet by wearing the guard short at first, and longer when you wish him to go faster. I will give the reason why some horses baulk and kick, and some fret. First, you make your horse fret by compelling or allowing him to go fast when first hitched up. Often we hear the remark, "When you get the colt started, let him go, or he will baulk." You get your colt started the best you can and then have to use the whip to keep him moving. The whip frightens the colt and he starts into a trot or run which causes the wagon to rattle, or whatever vehicle he may be hitched

to, and he is frightened still more; he commences to kick, or fret, and soon your colt is reduced in value or spoiled entirely, for a fretting, kicking horse is useless to every one, except, perhaps, the jockey. With such manner of treatment almost any colt will learn to become vicious, and it is almost certain to make baulky horses, because you have been used to starting them quick and at a rapid pace, and when hitched before a load and find they can not start as usual, fly back and refuse to go. Soon you have some thing more obstinate to deal with than a wild colt—a baulky one.

TO MAKE A HORSE GO.

I think there is no record of anyone using anything to make a colt go. The Spanish halter, cords, whips, or anything which can be put upon a horse's head or neck may be used, but they will not compel him to move. Some jerk the colt along by the under jaw, but he only moves because it is extreme torture, nor does it learn a colt what is wanted of him. My experience on horses for the past twenty years has been the means of my bringing out a system to be used by all in breaking colts. Some of the Spanish ranche men know the power they have over a horse when they can lasso him by the fore leg—with what ease they can hold the most powerful wild horse. Most severely has my patience been tried, when I have attempted to lead a colt across a bridge, or into a barn, or tried to lead him while riding another horse. I can obviate all these difficulties simply by a means I have of compelling a horse to go. If you wish to ride a horse and lead a colt, buckle a strap around the fore leg of the colt above the knee; hitch a rope or strap to it, and the other end around the horse's neck, leaving the loop as large as the collar should be. Have the strap between the horses long enough for the colt to travel when he comes up even with the horse. Fasten a strap to the colt's bit and to the girt of your horse, so he can not get too far ahead. Take your horse by the head and turn him around a few times until the

colt finds he has to step. Then mount your horse and swing around towards the colt, and then start him off, and you will have no further trouble. When you first hitch a colt to a loaded wagon, fasten the strap from his leg to the breast-ring of the other horse, which should be a gentle, well broken one. Start your team by turning from the colt; *start* the load by a stay chain on the broken horse's end of the evener. As soon as the colt has taken a few steps, say "Whoa," stopping him. Caress him and let him have time to think, as it were. Start him by a word given to the other horse, and do not frighten him by a display of the whip but keep that still. Walk him along as gently as possible, but if he begins to prance, or plunge, or exhibit any signs of fear, stop him instantly and let him know that he must go quiet. The lead-strap on his leg will compel him to go if he should hang back or refuse to step, and will also prevent him from swinging away from his mate. When you have your team started, get into the wagon and drive about as you please. The horse will always be able to draw the colt along if he attempts to stop, for he can not brace back enough to stop the horse, and soon he will learn that it is useless to make any such attempts. If he shows any signs of kicking put the guard upon his outside legs and he will soon give that up, too. The guard will also learn him to stand when stopped. Care should be taken to uncheck the colt when you stop him so that he may rest easy.

CAUTION.

I would say here that in hitching up a team which is uneasy and will not stand still, fasten the neck-yoke to the pole of the wagon, or sleigh, with a strong strap so they can not start ahead after you have hitched one tug, letting the tongue fall and frightening themselves. While hitching a colt onto a wagon, he will very often swing around away from the pole. In such a case I fasten a strap into the end of the tug. Standing on the opposite side, raise the tug above the gambrel and pull

him toward the pole, and say, "Stand in," as you pull him in. Hitch the outside tug first, so he can not swing out while you are hitching the remaining tug.

TO LEARN A COLT TO BACK

is a very easy matter if you know how to do it. But very few horses will back without the aid of the lines. No one can learn a horse to back by jerking on the bits. A very common way to learn a colt to back is to get him on a sidehill and jerk the bits, letting the load pull him back. Some say that you must press the hand against the front part of the arm, but this is useless, as it simply hurts the colt and does not show him what is required. I never spend more than twenty minutes, on an average, in learning a colt to back. With only the pressure of my finger on the bit, or rein, I can make any horse back, which I never saw any one else do. I do not wish it understood that other men can not break a colt as well as myself, for we have a great many good horsemen in the country, who will teach a horse almost any thing desired, but I wish the public to understand that my treatment does not hurt a colt, and he will learn what is wanted of him in one quarter of the time it will take him to learn the same by the treatment he will receive from other men who have written about, or taught in public how to train colts, or drive horses.

To show a colt how to back, and to compel him to do so, place a strap, or rope, around the front pastern, having it long enough to enable you to stand behind the colt. Take the lines in one hand, and with the other grasp the rope. Pull his foot back under him which will cause him to take a step backward, as it throws him off his balance, and he can not step forward. As he begins to move backward pull lightly on the reins, Make him step a few steps backward, and then start him ahead as far as he went back. Tell him to back, calling his name, and if he does not step back readily, pull his foot back with a strong pull. Keep him at

this until he backs at the word. It is better to have a well broken horse with him when learning to back before a wagon. Care should be taken when your colt is learning to back, that he does not back too far, nor too fast. A colt should not move a distance exceeding his own length at the word "Back." If he backs too fast, touch him with the whip, or let your other horse stop him, if hitched before a wagon. I have known men to spend hours trying to back a sullen colt out of a narrow stall. They would coax, jerk with a cord attached to the under jaw, whip over the head and shoulders, and try to push him out by main force, but all to no purpose; they could not compel him to back out. If a boy ten years old should put a strap on his fore leg he could pull him out, by drawing the strap across the edge of the stall for a purchase.

TO LEARN A COLT TO GO STEADY,

he should be learned to walk with a loose rein, which is a difficult thing to do with a high spirited animal. But there is no horse in existence that can not be learned to do this with proper treatment. I once found a horse that would prance from morning till night, both before a loaded and an empty wagon and he could not be induced to sober down to a walk, although frequently covered with sweat and foam. I tried my method, and learned him to walk in less than a half day. I place the guard on, one end running back to the carriage. When the horse starts to trot, or prance, I speak to him, saying, "Whaa," and draw him up so he can not take a prancing step. If he gets very nervous I pull on the guard and stop him until he gets quiet. Start him gently; if he goes quiet, with the rein loose, I stop and caress him. Let him know that it is what you want of him. After he gives up prancing, when you say "Whaa," unhitch him and let him rest, as some horses fret only when they are tired. One important thing you should learn is the difference between "Whoa," and "Whaa." The former means to stop and

stand; the latter, to go steadily. Some men say "Wh-o-o o-o" for the latter, and "Whoa," when they desire the horse to stop, not making difference enough between the two words to make it perceptible to the colt, and then because he does not readily obey he is severely dealt with. I do not believe in the frequent use of the whip, yet all colts should not be handled alike. A sullen, stubborn colt should sometimes have a good sharp cut with the whip, but a severe whipping would make him more stubborn, and even vicious. If a colt is very sullen, and it is most apt to be the case while learning to back, the best way to remedy it is to allow him to stand a while and then work upon him again. I have worked with colts until they were very warm and tired, so they would neither rein nor back, nor anything else I wished, without using means to compel them; but after putting on the guard and letting them rest for half an hour, or more, they would obey without any trouble. There is little use in trying to learn a colt anything when he is tired. You must have patience if you would have kind and obedient horses, as a great many colts are spoiled by not taking time enough to break them. I repeat what I have already said, exercise patience, and perseverance, and keep your temper, for the colt has enough to do to understand what you want of him, and is frightened enough with the proceedings and strange objects around him, without your frightening him still more by your irritating voice and manners. Besides, when you are angry you can not use proper judgment in handling a horse. You will blame him for what you are yourself to blame. If you undertake to make a horse do a thing, first show him how, and then persevere until you accomplish the task, for if the horse beats you once he will try much harder to do so again.

TO PREVENT A HORSE FROM CARRYING HIS HEAD TO ONE SIDE.

To prevent this bad and unsightly practice on the

part of the horse while being driven, has been the study of many horsemen. The beauty of many a matched team is marred by one or both of them carrying his head to one side. Few men know how to prevent it. Many, while plowing, have a peg, or brad fastened to the opposite horse, in such a manner that it will goad the side of the crowding horse, but this gets the team in the habit of kicking, oftener than it cures them of the other habit. Some farmers pay large sums to jockeys to train their carriage horses because they do not know how to do it themselves. I have known large sums to be offered by men who drove the best blooded horses to have them taught to carry their heads straight with their bodies. They put on the bitting harness, draw their heads up and draw them down, pull up the side braces, but all to no purpose; they are the same still. They want their horses to spread on the carriage, and want the nigh horse to keep far enough away from the off one so the plow will run well to land, while plowing but know of no way to bring around the desired results. I will try to explain how I prevent this disagreeable habit, for I can call it nothing but a habit. Take a hickory stick, or one of some other tough timber, about three-fourths of an inch thick, having a knob on one end, or a pin through one end will do, so it will not draw through the turret-ring on the back-pad. Pass the stick through the ring from the back side, through the ring on the hame, and tie it to the bit on the off side, if it is the nigh horse that crowds, and to the nigh side if it is the off horse. A horse will not crowd unless he turns his head to one side, and this brace prevents him from doing this. If your horses do not go far enough apart, you can make them do so by putting one of these braces on the inside of each horse, and make your inside lines long enough to let them spread apart. It will not prevent them from turning their heads in an opposite direction, as the brace will slide through the rings and allow them to turn easily.

The end that comes next to the bit should be light enough to spring a little, as it will make it more endurable for the horse. It is a very good plan to put one of these braces on a colt while learning him to drive single, as it keeps his head straight with his body, and is far better than to tear his mouth with the bitting harness, such as is used by a majority of people in breaking horses. Such harness should be banished to the barn garret, or some other place where they can not be used in tormenting a colt, and a more humane course of treatment should take its place.

TO BRIDLE A COLT

which tries to strike, rear, or throw himself back when you touch his mouth. Some colts, and even old horses have these faults. They can be easily broken up if you deal mildly with the horse. By fastening him in the same manner as you would a horse that pulls at the halter, that is, pass the halter through the hitching ring and fasten it to the fore leg, above the knee, short enough to keep him close to the manger, which prevents him from holding his head too high, and he can not strike nor crowd you against the stall. To hold the horses head around toward you while putting in the bits, rub the palm of the hand down the side of the colt's head until you can get the ends of your fingers between his lips, in the corner of the mouth. Then press the thumb against the outside, and the fingers well up inside. Be careful not to get your fingers between the animal's teeth. With this hold upon a horse you can bring his head toward you and open his mouth at the same time by spreading the two fingers in his mouth. Use the left hand when on the nigh side, putting the bridle on with the other, by crossing it above the left. This is the easiest way of putting the bits into a colt's mouth. Say, "Take in," when you open his mouth, and he will soon learn to do it by speaking to him or touching the bits to his lips. If a boy wishes to bridle a

high-headed horse he can make him hold down by taking a turn around below the knee and drawing his head down in this way.

TO WORK AN OLD, BAULKY HORSE DOUBLE,

put the *lead-strap* from his knee to the breast-ring of the other horse. If single, start him by a sharp pull on the fore leg. You can have one thill spliced three feet beyond the horse, with a ring or pulley attached to the end, running the rope from his leg through the ring, or pulley; then you can pull him ahead from the cart or wagon. Be quiet with him, as it is nervousness, and a lack of understanding you, that makes him baulk, or he has been learned to baulk while being broken, or hurt by a poor collar, or a sore breast.

TO DRIVE A KICKING HORSE

in shafts before a carriage. If you can not get one of my bits you can put on a common over-draw rein, which is known as the Kimball Jackson check, as Hiram Woodruff drove a horse owned by Jackson since I invented it for my own use. It consists of a strap running from the bits, on each side of the nose, over the top of the head, and down to the check-hook, having a strap running from the overdraw, along the back, through a ring fastened to the top of the crupper and branching off to each end of the cross-bar of the thills; draw it tight enough to keep your horse's head up high as he ought to carry it. This over-draw, running from the bit over the top of the head, to the cross-bar, and fastened, he can not kick, as that would throw up his head by the upper jaw.

SHYING HORSES.

A few remarks about driving skittish horses may not be out of place here. Some horses shy from imperfect vision, caused by wearing blinds, or blinkers, which have injured the sight to a great extent. Others from extreme timidity, more apparent in some horses than in others; others by driving them with a horse that is in

the habit of shying at every object along the roadside, as a horse soon learns this habit from a mate. Often we are told by persons who write on the subject, if a horse shies to make him go up to the frightening object, and that he should touch it, or smell of it. This may do in some cases, but as a general thing I consider it entirely wrong. It will but confirm the habit. You should make your horse understand that you are master, and that he must obey you at all times; that he must go where you direct; that he must not be on the watch for something frightful. If he sees anything at which to shy, he will turn his head towards it, when you should give the opposite rein a sharp pull, which will attract his attention from the object, and prevent him from turning out of the track. Your voice should never show fear, nor irritability, but should be firm and decisive. Always carry a good whip with such horses and if they do not come to the rein, give them a sharp cut with it on the side opposite the object. The bit I use throws the horse's head up so his attention is attracted from small objects by the use of it. Some horses shy only from want of exercise, and will not after having been driven a short time. A good cut with the whip will, in this case, be of more service than anything else. A horse should learn that he should not play while in the harness. If he is allowed to do so he is unsafe to drive, by any but experienced horsemen. A boy or woman can not drive him, for it requires a strong arm to control a playing horse, and he knows whether such have hold of the reins, and will ever take advantage unless well broken.

TO SADDLE A COLT.

Some colts will become accustomed to the use of the saddle readily, and with comparatively little trouble to the trainer, while others are very troublesome and require a vast amount of handling. In such cases, have the guard put on and held so that the colt can not get

away. Take the saddle in your hand, let him smell of it, rub him with it along the sides, until he will stand to have it tossed upon his back. Draw the girt up a little at a time until he will let you draw it up tight without flinching. Now draw the guard up short, take the reins between your thumb and finger, drawing the off rein about six inches shorter than the other, which will make him turn his head from you, so he can not start ahead. When you raise yourself into the saddle or stirrup, if he tries to start, pull his head around to his shoulder, and step down on the ground until he gets quiet, and again raise yourself in the stirup, until he will allow you to put your knee over his back. If he starts, pull his head around quick, and he will not move much. Let him feel your whole weight in the saddle, and with some colts you will have little more trouble, while others are still not broken. With such, lengthen out the guard and hitch him to a well broken horse, by the leg, as you would to lead a colt and ride a horse, as spoken of before. I generally take him away from home, riding the broken horse and leading the colt by his side until he becomes accustomed to seeing a person above him while in motion. Ride four or five miles out on a walk, if necessary. Remove the guard as soon as he gets so he will go quiet at your side, and will let your foot touch him without flinching. When you start back place the guard on again, and mount him. While he is fast to the other horse, and the guard is on, he can not run, rear nor plunge about, the guard preventing that, and the other horse making him go.

One of my over-draw safety-reins is the best to ride a colt or horse with, as it makes him carry a graceful head and neck.

After you have ridden the colt half a mile, or such a matter, dismount and take the guard off to let your colt rest a few moments. Mount again without replacing the guard. After he gets to going quietly, have some one ride the broke horse and take them apart. Watch

your colt closely, and if he gets frightened and tries to jump, or run, pull his head around to one side quick, and hold it there until he gives up. If he tries to go in a different direction from what you wish, and will not follow the rein, pull his head around sideways so he can not step to one side. When he gets his head turned the way you want him to go, let the rein loose until he gets started. The best way is to ride him two or three times in company with the horse you broke him with, and if he gets restive or unmanageable, put the lead-straps on again.

TO SHOE A KICKING HORSE.

Place the guard on. If you are alone you should handle the foot and make him stand on three legs, by pulling the hind leg up to the fore knee. You can take hold of the rope that is fastened to the hind leg, with one hand, and hold the rope after it is passed through the ring on the fore leg; raise the hind foot a few times by the rope. If he tries to kick you hold him by the other end of the rope, which you can do by stepping behind him. After he submits to have his foot handled, set the foot upon your knee, as you would to shoe it. Let the rope out so you can get the foot back far enough to work upon it. The rope prevents him from throwing his foot back of your lap. If he draws it forward, tighten the rope as you come back toward his fore leg. Shorten the rope to clinch the nails. If you have help they can hold the rope and you can shoe the horse with ease.

THE HABIT OF BITING,

is one of the worst that a horse can have. No one is safe around him. A person can guard against a horse that strikes by keeping to one side, can dodge his heels, but if he is inclined to bite, he will get hold of you in spite of all you can do. You may whip him until he trembles from head to foot with fear of you, and he will turn around and nip you as soon as you turn

your back toward him. Many horses, and especially stallions, can not be led without the aid of a long bar, attached to their bits, to keep them from turning and biting their leader. In some horses the habit of biting amounts almost to a species of madness, or insanity. I have overcome this great impediment to the agreeableness of taking care of horses, by a very simple means, after trying and exhausting every other method I could hear of. By learning the horse that his head or nose goes into the air when you cry "Take care," with perseverance you can break up the habit. My plan is this: Stand in front or to one side of the horse and prevent him from biting you, procuring first a small bit made to fit the roof of the mouth. (N. B.—I always keep them on hand.) Put on an over-draw check, passing the over-draw through a loop fastened on the top of the halter, with the bit in the mouth. Let the bit be fastened so there will be no danger of its dropping from the mouth. This bit will not prevent the horse from eating or drinking. Next, put on a surcingle, with a ring on the top of the back. Pass the end of the over-draw through this ring and let it hang down by his side, having it long enough to permit his nose to reach the floor. Have a leather on the end of the strap so it will not drop from the ring on the surcingle. As you come up to the side of the horse, take hold of the strap, if the horse snaps at you or lears give the strap a sharp pull, and cry, "Take care!" You can draw his head up so it will be impossible for him to bite. It is something he does not understand but he will soon learn its object. The worst biting horse can be lead by passing the end of the *lead-rein* through the ring of the bit and fastening it to the end of the over-draw, after the latter has been passed through the ring on the back.

TO THROW A HORSE.

As this is very often necessary in surgical operations I will give the easiest way of doing it—one in which

no risk will be run of injuring the horse, as is very frequently done by Rarey's plan, as well as by other methods. I throw a horse in the same manner in which he lies down of his own accord. If a horse wishes to lie on his left side, he steps his left hind foot forward, and toward the right fore foot, and then drops on his knees and is down. To force a horse down, place a rope or strap around the neck where the collar comes, loose enough so it will not choke the horse, run the end between the fore legs, through a ring fastened to the left hind pastern; from there to one around the right fore pastern, and the end over the back. Now strap up the nigh fore foot and take hold of the rope with one hand and pull on it, which will bring him on his knees, and draw his hind foot under him, which prevents him from rearing, as he will when thrown by Rarey's method, or the more inhuman way of pulling the animal's head around to its shoulder by a cord attached to the under jaw, which strains his neck and throws him very violently some times. By my method, a colt unless he is very hard to handle, can be made to lie down in a double stall without danger of hurting him.

REMARKS ON CASTRATING.

THERE are differences of opinion as to the mode and time of castrating. I have traveled through the country for the last thirteen years and made a business of castrating, and I find, by experience, and close observation, that the most approved method is that of clamping, or using two pieces of timber to fasten the cord. The best time is at the age of one, as a colt operated on at that time makes the most perfect horse, yet, there is no danger in castrating the animal at any age provided his blood is pure, and care is taken not to give him too much pain. The only danger is in drawing his feet from under him by means of a rope around the pasterns which brings all the strain on the loins. The operation of castrating should be performed by competent hands, after which the person who takes off the clamps should pass his fingers around the cord and loosen it from the membrane to which it sometimes adheres, and it will readily draw up, unless it has been strained to injure its elasticity, and in such cases it will be necessary to apply some powerful medicine, such as the Black Oil recommended in this work, which will take it back to its place.

There are but few persons who know how to stop the blood where a horse is castrated, if he gets to bleeding from any cause. Sometimes the veins on the cord get ruptured, and sometimes the cord itself gets torn, and I have known many instances in which colts have bled

to death, because their owners were ignorant of a method of stopping them from bleeding. This may be done by any one in a few moments by putting on the guard to hold the colt still, with raw cotton batting. Crowd the cotton into the cut around the cord, and draw the outside skin tight over it, putting on a clamp to hold the edges together. Let it remain on from twenty four to forty-eight hours, according to the age of the horse. If the blood runs up, causing it to swell much, rub it with camphene liniment—a liniment every horse owner should have by him. I give a recipe for its manufacture in this book. If the cord bleeds when the cotton is removed, try and take up the vein; if you can not do it, put more cotton in and go after some one who can. I never knew a case which could not be stopped by one application of the cotton, or needed any further care after it was removed. The parts should be washed with sour milk before the removal of the cotton. Care must always be taken to keep the cord loose from the skin, as it must not be allowed to grow fast. This has been neglected by many horse raisers, on account of the trouble encountered in handling the colt without throwing him, but my invention of the "Guard" will do away with that inconvenience, as any one can cut of the clamps by cutting the strings on each end and prying the sticks apart. Be careful in taking off the clamps not to pull down on the cord, as it is apt to hang down if pulled when it is sore.

Any one desiring the services of the author of this work, may address him at his residence, at Berlin, Green Lake county, Wisconsin, stating their place of residence. He will come, for the sum of ten dollars, to any place within fifty miles, to castrate, where there are ten colts at one place. My method of casting is explained in this work, rolling the colt on his back to support his loins, to castrate.

If my directions are strictly followed after castrating, I warrant the doing well of each colt.

HINTS ON BREAKING STEERS.

PLACE them in a small inclosure from which they can not escape. Procure a half-inch rope twenty feet long and make a running noose at one end of it. Lay it in one corner of the yard and drive your steers over it until one of them steps his nigh fore foot into it; then jerk it up around the leg, below the knee. After you catch the animal, if he is vicious, you can stand on the fence, or outside the yard and hold the rope until he gives up, or lead him up to a post and get his mate beside him. But if not vicious, get into the yard with a good bow whip and follow him around a few times, holding him back so that he can not go faster than a walk. After he goes quiet, come up to his side, within reach of his nose, and say, "Whoa," and stroke him lightly on the nose, at the same time pulling on the rope attached to his leg, standing as near behind him as your whip will admit of. When he becomes quiet go up to his shoulder and pat him on the side If he starts away touch him on the nose and draw him up with the rope as before. Use the whip as little as possible and make him mind. After your subject will stand to be caressed start him ahead by a light blow with the whip around the flanks. Let him walk around the yard a few times, turning him to the left. When you turn him touch him

lightly with the whip on the near shoulder, which will learn him to turn toward the whip. If he refuses to turn toward you, you have the power to compel him to do so by pulling his leg sideways. When you touch him with the whip keep him turning toward the left and say, "Haw," not "Whoa," until he learns that "Haw" means to turn to the left, and "Whoa," means to stop and stand still. When he learns to stop readily at the word "Whoa," and to turn readily to the left at the word "Haw," place the rope on the off fore leg and go through the same process, saying "Gee," when you turn him to the right. Always touch the animal on the shoulder on the same side as the direction you wish him to turn. After you have learned him to turn readily with the rope, lay it over his back and make him go through the exercise with the whip alone. If he gets unruly, or obstinate you can catch the rope and jerk him up. Now hang a bow upon his neck and drive him with it on; then hang a chain on and let the ends drag. You should also learn him to stand around when you have the rope on by stepping around behind him and drawing the rope around his gambrels and pulling him sideways, as by standing on the off side, with the rope fastened to the nigh fore leg, drawing across the hind leg. Learn him to back by dropping the rope close to his foot, standing behind and pulling his foot under him, and giving him a light stroke across the upper part of fore leg, saying, "Back," which will soon learn him to back readily at that word. Drive the animal out of the yard, place him by himself, and put a guard on him in the same manner as you would on a horse, making it rather short. Caress, and give him something to eat, and allow him to rest a little while, first putting on and taking off the yoke a few times. Train the animal intended for the off side first. Now get the nigh one in the yard and go through the same exercises as with the first. When that one is well tamed, lengthen the guard on the off animal and drive him into the

yard again. Then shorten the guard so he can not step and put the yoke on. Let the end rest on the ground. Walk around him and caress him while in this position. The guard will prevent him from whirling around with the yoke, as they will sometimes do, if no precaution is taken against it. After the off ox will submit to have the end of the yoke held up and dropped, bring the near ox up beside him and yoke them together. The best way to learn an ox to come under the yoke is to place your off ox three or four feet from a post, tie a rope to one end of the yoke and to the post, and then elevate the other end of the yoke so the nigh ox can come under it. Stop him when under the yoke, and put the bow in and caress him. Place a guard on the nigh ox after you have them yoked, and let them rest a while, after which train the pair as you would one ox, taking off the guard and using the rope, on the nigh fore leg off the nigh ox when learning them to haw, and on the off ox when learning them to gee. When you want them to haw, touch the nigh one on the four shoulder, and the off one the same. Caress more than you whip. Load lightly at first. Pay attention where you strike. Speak your words plainly and do not mix them up, thus for instance: "Whoa, back, hush, haw," as we very often hear, when some men are driving cattle. Learn your cattle to back by showing them how. When you stop and want to leave your cattle put a guard on each one.

When you wish to unyoke oxen, start them *forward* always calling by name the ox you wish to move.

Learn this method and practice it and you will have kind oxen

DONALD'S PRACTICAL RECIPES.

TO TELL A HORSE'S AGE.

After horses are five years old they have a ring around the tail near the upper part of it, and every five years after a similar one appears.

DISTEMPER.

Take sulphur half oz., asafœtida, liquorice powdered, Venice Turpentine one oz. Mix, and divide into four doses in four succeeding nights. To relieve the throat rub it with the camphene liniment.

BOTS.

To cure a horse attacked with bots, wash four quarts raw potatoes and mash them fine, add a little water and drench it down him. A bot will die in from two to five seconds, placed on a raw potato.

DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS.

Give catechu one oz., uva ursi powdered one half oz., opium powdered, half drachm; rub thoroughly with camphene liniment over the kidneys.

CAMPHENE LINIMENT.

Take of hartshorn one and a half ounces, camphor

one oz., spirits of turpentine two oz., sweet oil three oz., alchohol four oz. Shake before using.

POLL-EVIL.

Take garden rue one pound, and a half a pound of lard: simmer together, strain and cool. Put one tablespoonful in each ear of a horse for six days, until the sore is loosened; then dress with green ointment.

FISTULA.

After the pipe is formed insert a needle at the top and run it out at the bottom, and draw or pour through, while warm the green ointment.

BOG OR BLOOD SPAVIN.

Saturate a woolen cloth with the Indian liniment and bind around the joint; rub hard with the hand every day.

SPLINTS.—RINGBONE SPAVINS.

Two oz. each of oil of spike, oil organum, British oil, oil smoke and oil of amber. Mix well together, bathe and heat in.

WINDGALLS.

Take a piece of leather, drive it full of tacks one fourth of an inch apart, nail the heads on a piece of wood, make the horse bear his weight on it, drive the nails into the puff, bandage it with linen rags dipped in camphene liniment.

CONDITION POWDERS.

One pound comfrey root, half pound antimony, half pound sulphur, three ounces saltpetre, half pound laurel berries, half pound juniper berries, half pound anise seed, half pound rosin, three ounces alum, half pound copperas, half pound masterwort, half pound gun powder. Mix all to powder, feed once a day, keep the

horse dry, and from cold water for six hours after using it.

SADDLE, OR COLLAR LINIMENT.

Spirits of turpentine half oz., oil of spike half oz., castile soap half oz., gum camphor half oz., sulphur ether half oz., ess. wormwood half oz., alchohol half pint. Wash freely.

STIFLE SPRAINS.

Boil half a bushel of white oak bark, add half a pound of alum, when cold add the whites of a dozen eggs and a handful of salt. Bathe well.

FLATULENT COLIC.

Give soap and new milk.

TO TAKE A FILM FROM THE EYE.

Take sugar and salt in equal parts; pulverize fine and blow in the eye, and melt fresh butter and put in the ears.

LAMPASS.

Prick with a sharp knife until they bleed.

SCRATCHES.

Give the horse sassafras tea with a little saltpetre, and dress with green ointment.

FOUNDER OR STIFFS.

Bleed in the cornet ring with a small fleam half an inch above the hoof, the vein will be found from three to five inches from the point of the heel cord as in any other vein. Take one quart of blood from each foot and tie human manure on the bit, to be changed as often as the horse gets it off for twenty-four hours.

TO STOP BLEEDING.

Where the bleeding part can not be tied up, burnt

copperas finely pulverized should be bound on to it.

GREEN OINTMENT.

For the cure of burns, wounds and old sores, on man or beast, this ointment will effect more cures than any other. Care must be taken not to let it burn while making. Rosin two oz., beeswax two oz., white pine pitch four oz.; melt them and add half a pound of lard, and half oz. finely ground verdigris.

TO CURE SCALD HEAD ON CHILDREN.

To be rubbed on once a day until cured: One pound fresh butter, heat hot, add two ounces burgundy pitch, two oz. spirits turpentine. Simmer all together, and when cool, add of red precipitate one oz., golden litharge one oz.

TO CURE SWEENY IN HORSES.

When first done, take one pound smoked bacon chopped fine, the whites of four eggs, three tablespoonsful of salt; heat so as to melt the grease. Rub on when the disease is of long standing, so as to shrink the shoulder. Cut a slit in the skin at the top of the shrunk flesh, so as to put in a tablespoonful of salt. Let it remain ten days; then insert a seton at the bottom: as soon as it discharges, cut it. Cure effectual.

TO CURE CORNS ON HORSES.

Pare the hoof until you can see the corn, which is of a reddish color. Put on spirits of salts, and dress with green ointment.

Wood ashes, and common salt wet with water, will stop cracks in stoves.

TO GET RID OF RED ANTS,

Sprinkle the place they infest with ground coffee.

TO GET RID OF RATS.

Put nitric acid in the holes through which they pass in and out.

TO PRESERVE FENCE POSTS.

Dip the end you insert in the ground, in a solution of blue vitriol.

TO PRESERVE POTATOES.

Take those that are sound and kiln dry them and put in a dry place.

Scotch snuff put in the hole where crickets come out will destroy them.

TO CURE CHILBLAINS.

Rub with green ointment.

TO CURE BURNS AND SCALDS.

Wrap up the part burned in green ointment spread on linen cloths.

TO CURE CURBS ON HORSES.

The Indian liniment should be used heating it in.

BLACK OIL.

For the cure of old sores, proudflesh and sprains. Two oz. oil of vitriol, one gill spirits of turpentine, one pint winter strained oil, one beeves' gall. Put into a thick glass bottle.

TO CURE THE AGUE FEVER.

Take one pill of tar every night until cured.

INDIAN LINIMENT.

Cures rheumatism, sprains, numbness, headache and toothache. Two ozs. spirits heartshorn, one oz camphor gum, one oz. oil spike, one oz. organum, one oz. amber,

one oz oil peppermint, one oz. British oil, one oz. beeves' gall, one quart alchohol. Shake together and warm by the fire twelve hours, in a stone jug.

FEVER AND AGUE.

Quinine thirty grains, prussiate of iron and sulphate of iron eight grains, cayenne pepper sixty grains; mix well. Divide the above into six doses, and give one powder every three hours until four are taken, then give one the next morning. In all cases give of the bitters, after the powders are taken, a teaspoonful three times a day.

To make the bitters, take twelve grains alloes, fifteen grains quinine, prussiate of iron four grains, cayenne pepper thirty grains. Put into a pint of brandy and shake well.

COUGH SYRUP.

One oz. sweet spirits nitre, one oz. elixer of vitriol, one oz. laudnum, half pound clarified honey. Take a teaspoonful three times a day.

TO REPAIR BROKEN GLASS.

Dissolve isinglass in gin; make the broken parts warm; dip them in the liquid and tie them up for some time.

Good, fresh yeast is a sovereign remedy when taken internally, for putrid sore throat, scarlet fever and diptheria.

TO CURE CANCER.

Take a quantity of red oak bark and burn to ashes, to this add water, and boil to the consistency of molasses. Apply to the part affected and leave on for an hour. Afterward cover the plaster with tar; remove in a few days. If protuberances appear on the wound apply the

plaster and tar alternately until they all disappear, after which apply any healing salve.

BEE STING.

Bind on salt moistened.

NOSE BLEEDING.

Roll up a piece of paper and press under the upper lip, and cord one arm.

FOR BURNS.

Apply the white of an egg.

CERTAIN CURE FOR HEADACHE.

To be applied as any other lotion. Opodeldoc, spirits of wine, and salmoniac, in equal parts.

CHOLERA MORBUS.

Take a chicken just killed and boil in three quarts of water, and drink freely of the broth.

POULTICE FOR A FESTER.

Boil bread in strong beer and poultice with it.

FOR COUGHS.

A tablespoonful of molasses, two teaspoonsful castor oil, one teaspoonful of paregoric. Dose, half a teaspoonful.

TO RESTORE GREY HAIR.

Lac sulphur one drachm, sugar of lead half drachm, rose water four oz. Mix.

CURE FOR INFLAMATORY RHEUMATISM.

Half oz. pulverized saltpetre put into a half pint of sweet oil. Bath the parts affected.

LIQUID GLUE.

Gum arabic two oz., boiling water one pint; dissolve and add of spirits ten oz.

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